HOW GOVERNMENT MONEY IS WASTED IN PRINTING BILLS

Thousands of Duplicates Are Printed and Distributed.

NOTHING CHANGED FROM COVER TO COVER BUT TITLE

Correspondence Morning Journal. Washington, Oct. 24.- In the matter of waste in public printing there probably is no man better qualified to speak than the superintendent of docspeak than the superintendent of doc-uments, Mr. L. C. Ferrell, through whose department passes a copy of each document printed, and who is in touch with the libraries all over the country that handle the output of the government printing office. In speak-ing of the big printing bill Mr. Ferrell wald:

The trouble with the public print ing service is very largely in the du-plication of work, and not in the matter actually printed. The work could be done and done better than it is if the duplication were eliminated and a good many reforms instituted. Take the annual report of the general commanding the army. That is printed three times. In one form it is designated on the back: "Annual report of the lieutenant general commanding on this alone you could make a saving of the lieutenant general commanding of the Gazette is \$5. Now on this alone you could make a saving of the country probably more. the army in seven parts, part I, etc." Then it comes out in the annual report Then it comes out in the annual report of the war department, where the title reads: 'Report of the war department, volume 1, 1900. Part 3, lieutenant general commanding the army.' Then it comes out as a house document, and reads: 'House document volume 4, No. 2. Reports of war department, 1900, lieutenant general part 1; miscellaneous, Fifty-sixth congress second session, 1900-1901.' gress, second session, 1900-1901.'
"Now even an expert would be puz-

zied to know that they were all identically the same book, printed from the same plates. With no change but the cover and title pages.

Duplicate Distribution. "I know of no field of government activities where duplication of work is carried on to a greater extent than the distribution of public documents About thirty-five offices in Washing ton distribute their own publications free to libraries and individuals. The greater number of such publications are distributed free to individuals and libraries by each senator, represents tive and delegate in congress, an free to libraries by this office. So that the work is not only duplicated by the distribution also by each of these

independent agencies.
"The extent of duplication to librarles can be more accurately estimated than the duplication to individuals from the fact that libraries usually preserve all documents sent them and rave been returning duplicates for re distribution during the nast twenty five years. Since the establishment of this office in 1895, 800,000 duplicate documents have been returned to it by libraries which received them in dupli cate. Applications have been made to the return of several hundred thou-sand additional volumes but they were declined owing to lack of storage fa

That the duplication to individual has been equally large is unquestion able; doubtless it is much larger. have statistics of the distribution of sus reports and the messages and pa pers of the presidents—where dupil cation between members of congress was prevented to the extent of \$5,000 volumes. The entire distribution of the former was made by the depart ment of the interior and this office had control of the distribution of the lat

"If possible, even worse manage ment is shown in printing as house documents pumphlets that are issued weekly, monthly or quarterly. These are thoroughly distributed in pamphlet form, and then from six month to two years thereafter they are gath ered up and baued in expensive sheep bound sets. A number of annual re ports, not administrative in character are also published as congressions documents. Such annual reports an the pamphlet publications referred t make 85 of the volumes of document of the Fifty-eighth congress. Of these 85 volumes 157,250 copies were printed, and about 51,000 of the same will be bound in full sheep. I estimate that about \$60,000 of the total cost repre

Cost of Distribution. "Another question to be considered in the overproduction and duplication of documents is the cost of distributing them. There are about 3,290,00 pounds of duplicate books sent out an returned annually. This at 8 cents a pound means a waste of \$256,000 a year to the postoffice. In fact, when you count binding, storage and original work on this mass of matter it touches a great many points.

touches a great many points.

'I doubt very much whether any real reform in the printing and binding of documents can be made until all document-distributing offices at consolidated under one head. It is quite safe to say that no business establishment in the land would main that theirs or forty offices each dual. tain thirty or forty offices, each dualicating work and distribution of the other to a considerable extent. The money uselessly expended in maintain-ing so many establishments ought to

Popularity of Public Documents.
Regarding the value and popularit
of government publications, Superin
tendent Ferrell said:

tendent Ferrell said:

"There are designated as repositories of public documents one library named by each representative and senator, twelve specially designated repositories, and all the state and territorial libraries, making a total of 546 I have recently sent out a letter to ald epositories of documents asking them whether the documents asking them whether the documents sent were every taken from the postoffice, how they were shelved and catalogued and whether there were any document that that could be profitably eliminated from the list. Heplies have been received from about 250 libaries, covering all sections of the country, and more are coming in daily. It is impossible to go into them, in detail, but their general tenor is the same. They all shelve and most of them catalogue the documents are frequently used by the public. In only a few cases do the libraries are list discontinuous of the list and the list are list and the list are list and the list and the list are listed as a list are listed as a lis public. In only a few cases do the li-braries ask the discontinuance of any document. There is one curious fact about the discontinuance requests. Nearly all of them say the Patent Of-fice Gazette is not wanted. This is one of the most expensive publications the

of the most expensive publications, the government gets out.

"It is valuable to the people who want it, but the libraries very generally do not. Each representative is authorized to name eight depositories for the Gazette in his district. Seven of these undoubtedly could be cut out and then there would be more copies than any one wanted. The subscrip-

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on this alone you could make a saving of \$16,800 annually, probably more. "But there are very few publications turned out that have not at least 1,000 interested readers to whose particular line of work or investigation the document applies. These readers want the books or want at least to know where they can be had when needed.

"The sheepskin cover is a thing I have been trying for a long time to

Down

get rid of any way. The canvas cover costs 20 per cent less and lasts twice as long, especially in litraries and elsewhere where soft coal is used. A letter is now being prepared to go to ing on just that point."

Fall Kills Stage Driver.
Frank Campbell, who fell from the stage while on his way to Kingsten. Wednesday evening of last week, died Priday-evening, says the Hillsboro Adrocate. He was completely paralyzed from his neck down, yet his mind was clear up to the time he passed away is in sleep. From the fact that the leceased had previously suffered a paralytic stroke, it is evident that he paralytic stroke, it is evident that he had another stroke that caused him to fall from the wagon. The deceased was a native of Nova Scotia and was about 45 years of age, and all that is known of his family is that he has a sister at Gloucester. Mars. He came to Kingston about twenty years ago. and was one of the most respected citdeeply regretted by all who knew him. The funeral took place at Kingston ast Saturday afternoon which was largely attended by the people of the surrounding country.

A DANGEROUS MISTAKE. Albuquerque Mothers Should Not Negleet Kidney Weakness in Children.

Most children have weak kidneys. The earliest warning is bed-wetting. 'Tis a mistake to neglect these tron-

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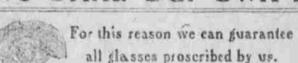
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